(12) In order to reduce subsidy in the irrigation Sector in regard to supply of water, it is necessary to raise water rates periodically to cover adequately the maintenance costs. Efforts also should be made to make optimum use of water resources and collect dues regularly from the consumers.

(13) In the case of State Electricity Boards efforts should be made to realise a 3 per cent return on net worth by suitable tariff adjustments, economy in administration and by proper maintenance of plant and machinery. A minimum tariff of 50 paise per unit for the use of energy in agricultural sector as agreed to at the Power Ministers' Conference should be implemented immediately. A collective action by all States in this regard is required.

(14) It is necessary that the State Transport Corporations are put on a sound economic footing and, therefore, a 5 per cent return should be aimed at which can be achieved through appropriate tariff revisions, better fleet utilisation and reduction in administrative expenditure.

(15) Loans given to States against net collections of small savings should be treated as loans in perpetuity*.

(16) The interest rate charged from the States on IDA loan may be revised taking into account the very low interest rate charged on these loans by the World Bank and the likely burden on the Centre due to depreciation in exchange rate.

(17) Incentives in the form of additional financial flows should be provided to those States which show better fiscal efficiency and management.

*Dr. Rangarajan felt that this is an issue that should be examined by the Finance Commission.

Proposal for starting a rubber industry in Kanyakumari

*253. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal from Tamil Nadu Government to start a Rubber Industry in Kanyakumari pending with Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Decline in percentage of rural population below poverty line

@*254. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the percentage of population below the poverty line in rural area has dropped to 33.4 in 1987-88 from 51.2 in 1977-78;

(b) whether Government aim to achieve full rural employment by the end of the century; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. Based on the quinquennial surveys of household consumption expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), it has been estimated that the percentage of population below the poverty line in the rural areas has dropped from 51.2 in 1977-78 to 33.4 in 1987-88.

(b) and (c) Eighth Five Year Plan aims at bringing employment into a sharper focus in a medium term perspective with the goal of reducing unemployment to neglegible level within the next ten years.

The outlay for Rural Development in Eighth Plan has been stepped up considerably to Rs. 30,000 crores and major portion of this is proposed to be allocated to employment programmes. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) and Integrated Rural Development Programmes (IRDP) are the two major poverty alleviation and employment generation programmes. The primary objective of JRY is generation of additional gainful employment for the unemployed and under-employed persons in the rural areas. People below the poverty line constitute the target group. During the Eighth Five Year Plan, it is proposed to create a minimum of 1000 million mandays each year in the form of supplementary employment.

IRDP is a self-employment programme and its oyjective is to enable identified poor families to obtain incremental income for crossing the poverty line. Income generating assets are provided through a mix of subsidy and Bank credit. During the Eighth Five Year Plan, it is proposed to assist about 12.6 million families under IRDP. Preparation of credit plans, substantial increase in per family investment and proper provision of backward and forward linkages will be main thrust areas.

Hiteswar Saikia Committee report on employment

@*255. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hiteswar Saikia Committee on employment recommended limiting of Government's role in employment generation; and

(b) if so, what are the precise recommendations of the Committee and what is Government's decision on each of the recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) The Report of the NDC Committee on Employment, constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Hiteswar Saikia, Chief Minister, Assam is awaiting consideration of the NDC. Details regarding the recommendations of the Committee can be available after the NDC has considered the Report and taken a view on its recommendations.

देश में तकनीकी मिशन की स्थापना

*256. श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज :
डा० जिनेन्द्र कुमार जैन :

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने देश में 17 तकनीकी मिशन स्थापित करने का निर्णय किया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो देश में इन नवीन मिशनों के द्वारा किन-किन क्षेत्रों को लाभ मिलने की सम्भावना है;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने इनके लाभ आम उपभोक्ता तक पहुंचाने हेतु आवश्यक तंत्र आदि की स्थापना हेतु कोई व्यापक योजना भी तैयार की है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो आम आदमी को लाभ पहुंचाने हेतु कोई योजना कब तक तैयार की जायेगी ?

विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय इलैक्ट्रानिकी विभाग और महासागर विकास विभाग में राज्य मंत्री और संसदीय का

@Previously starred Question 115, transferred from 3rd May, 1993.